

Department of Radiation Therapy University of Otago 2019



Staffing Update

Ella Shanks has joined the team and will be teaching Radiation Therapy and Oncology III and distance planning as part of Radiation Therapy Practice II in 2020.

Marion Clipet replaces Maryke Kemp as our new Client Services Administrator working from the front desk Mondays—Wednesdays.

Kate Chadwick and **Zrinka Kraljevic** (Admin) have returned to work after the safe arrival of Tana and Lota. Kate will be leading the distance planning modules in semester I as **Alannah Flockton** is currently on parental leave after the arrival of Lucas.

Research Update

Gay Dungey: Peer Group Supervision (PGS)

Gay has completed a study investigating NZ RTs perceptions of PGS, which was implemented into five NZ departments mid-2017. The results indicate PGS may address patient-related stressors for RTs who are 1-5 years qualified. They feel patient-related matters can be discussed openly during PGS which is helping to improve their practice and reduce their stress. In contrast, experienced staff are using the groups as a strategy for managing the organisational stressors associated with burnout. A manuscript has been submitted to the JMRS, which should be published in the first half of next year. This year PGS was also introduced into the BRT from year one. Gay has a summer student currently investigating the third-year students' perceptions of PGS and will publish the results next year.

Paul Kane—PhD project (part-time)

Paul's project aims to investigate the drivers behind a curriculum design to best meet the needs of a health science discipline, producing competent practitioners in an educationally valid and sustainable manner. Over the next 12-18 months the data collection will involve all facets of radiation therapy education including academic and clinical practice as well as managerial, regulatory and professional perspectives. Data will also be gathered from related disciplines in New Zealand and overseas.





Awards Ceremony

On the evening of 15th November the University of Otago Wellington/Te Whare Wānanga o Otago ki Pōneke held its annual Awards Ceremony/Hui Whakanui Tauira. The final formal event of the academic year celebrates the successes of all students who are linked to the Wellington campus.

As well as radiation therapy there are cohorts from medicine, physiotherapy, dietetics and a large range of post graduate students studying on campus and at distance. Each group of students is acknowledged with a distinct part of the ceremony devoted to them. Radiation Therapy featured strongly this year with the vast majority of the RT prize recipients able to travel from around the country and make the event. Prizes were presented by the outgoing Dean of the campus Professor Sunny Collings, watched on by supporting friends, whānau and staff.

Darcelle Nesser represented the graduating class of 2019 and gave an excellent student address, capturing the spirit of the experiences of a radiation therapy student with warmth and humour.

NZIMRT Award for Top Academic Student - Year I

Emily Younger

NZIMRT Award for Top Academic Student - Year II

Nadia Kahn

NZIMRT Award for Top Academic Student - Year III

Kelsey Forman

Academic Award - Year I

Rachael Robas

Academic Award - Year II

Olivia Pattinson

Academic Award - Year III

Darcelle Nesser

Varian Prize for Top Planning Student - Year III

Darcelle Nesser

AlphaXRT Award for Top Clinical Student - Year III

Bethany Ethridge

Cancer Society Merit Award for Consistent Effort and Achievement

Isla Gray

Angela Allen Travelling Scholarship

Jesse Miller

We would also like to acknowledge Nancy Yang who got the prize for excellence in HASC417



NZIMRT Conference



The 2019 annual conference of the NZIMRT took place in Rotorua from 30th August to 1st September. This conference represented the inaugural combined meeting with the Australia New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine. Department of Radiation Therapy staff were in attendance at the conference to both present themselves and support undergraduate and post graduate students who were presenting. Alannah Flockton reported on the department's teaching project which is piloting the use of our cloud-based planning system to deliver distance teaching for year two students on clinical placement. Paul Kane was there in his role as Deputy Editor of the Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences and provided a report on the journal to conference delegates. Vanessa Sword, an Honours student, was presenting her work. Her project contributed to a multi-centre double blinded randomised clinical trial investigating the superiority of cranberry capsules over placebo capsule for the management of radiation induced cystitis in prostate cancer patients. Her supervisor is Associate Professor Patries Herst who was also the Principal Investigator for the clinical trial. At the conference it was also announced that Gay

Dungey was awarded the 'NZIMRT President's Award' which is given in recognition of services to the NZIMRT and profession. There was also a significant representation of current undergraduate students at the conference. For many, this was their first conference experience and provided insight as to how scientific meetings contribute to the ongoing professional development of health practitioners in general. One group of students: Rose Coote, Laura Hamilton, Jesse Miller and Libby Wilson had a poster presentation at the conference which was created as part of their assessment for the RADT313 Literature Analysis paper. The poster, examining some of the literature around inequities in cancer care, was very well received, warranting endorsement by a plenary session speaker and being named the top student poster of the event. Well done team!



Clinical Placements

New members to the clinical tutor/educator team this year were

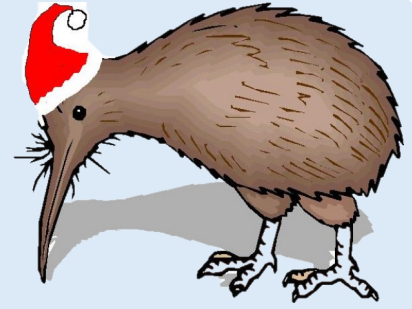
- **Tessa Walsh** (Bowen)
- **Olivia Pearse** (Auckland City)
- **Kendall Scott** (ARO)

Pauline McChesney (Palmerston North) retired earlier in the year. Pauline, thank you for all of your hard work and contribution to the RT profession.

Thanks to the clinical teams in Australia (Cairns, Wairoa, Gold Coast) for their support of the RT programme to date.

THANKS TO ALL CLINICAL STAFF INVOLVED WITH STUDENTS!

‘Planning via distance’ two year pilot (a component of RT Practise II) continues Semester 1 2020.



MERRY KIRIHIMETE
AND A HAPPY NEWYEAR

Important Dates in 2020

Year II students start clinical placement

Monday 6 January

Academic Year starts

Monday 3 February

Clinical Tutors Meeting

Thursday 13 February

Graduation

Saturday 9 May

Awards Ceremony

Friday 13 November (TBC)

Applications for BRT Programme close

Tuesday 15 September 2020

